

Name: **Lost Soldier WY-030-25N94W25-2012**

**FORM 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes   X   (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

**a) Inventory Source:** **BLM Rawlins FO 1979 Wilderness Inventory Hard Copy Files**\_\_\_\_\_

**b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):**   Seven Lakes Initial Inventory WY-030-409  

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):**   Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Wilderness Review Serial No. 66700  

**d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s):**   High Desert District/Rawlins Field Office  

**2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:**

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

**The unit consists of approximately 400,000 acres north of the checkerboard and west of U.S. Highway 287. Man's activities are noticeable almost everywhere. Many roads, pipelines, power lines and telephone lines crisscross the area. In spite of the fact that many roadless tracts of 5,000 acres are found in the area, none have wilderness potential.**

Inventory Source: M:\gis\_workareas\Recreation\WSA\LandWilderCharc1979.shp

Area #/Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Seven Lakes Initial Inventory WY-030-409	<b>Yes (400,000 acres)</b>	No	No	No	No

## **FORM 2**

### **Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

a. Area Number/Name: **Lost Soldier WY-030-25N94W25-2012** Acreage 13,046.57

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒X\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the east by County Road 23 a.k.a. Wamsutter – Crooks Gap Road. The unit is also bound on the south by BLM Road 3217 a.k.a. Hadsell Road and a section of state land. The unit is bound on the west by the Jim Bridger – Mustang 230kV Transmission Line. The unit is bound on the north by the Rawlins Field Office boundary.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Lost Soldier area under consideration is 13,046.57 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t24n	r93w	19	t25n	r93w	31
t24n	r93w	18	t25n	r94w	36
t24n	r94w	13	t25n	r94w	35
t24n	r94w	14	t25n	r94w	34
t24n	r94w	15	t25n	r93w	29
t24n	r94w	16	t25n	r93w	30
t24n	r93w	7	t25n	r94w	25
t24n	r94w	12	t25n	r94w	26
t24n	r94w	11	t25n	r94w	27
t24n	r94w	10	t25n	r93w	16
t24n	r94w	9	t25n	r93w	21
t24n	r94w	8	t25n	r93w	20
t24n	r93w	6	t25n	r93w	17
t24n	r94w	1	t25n	r93w	19
t24n	r94w	2	t25n	r93w	18
t24n	r94w	3	t25n	r94w	13
t24n	r94w	4	t25n	r94w	24
t24n	r94w	5	t25n	r94w	23
t25n	r93w	32			

The Lost Soldier area surrounds several areas of private and state land within central portions of the unit. The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie and drainages created by the hills surrounding Eagle's Nest Draw. Elevation ranges from 6,880 feet above the drainages to, approximately, 6,530 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover is Mountain Big Sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is livestock grazing. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 55.54 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and .38 miles of wilderness inventory roads (i.e., well access roads) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes and wilderness inventory roads are demonstrated in photos 3-5. When hiking across the Lost Soldier Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains two oil and gas wells throughout the Lost Soldier Unit (see locations in unit map and example in Photo 1). These oil and gas installations within the unit represent permanent improvements and loss of primeval character. Upon examining the status of these oil and gas wells, it was determined that both wells have expired permits as of 2008. Despite the variation in status, these wells remain as existing installations that detract from the naturalness and are substantially noticeable to the casual observer while hiking through the unit. All wells, which are not abandoned, are managed as active wells and receive commercial vehicle traffic for periodic maintenance. This traffic would interrupt the casual observer's experience of wilderness character due to road dust plumes and the contrast between the white coloration of these vehicles moving across the tan, brown, and olive landscape. Well pads do not receive final reclamation approval until they have been plugged and abandoned. Visual contrasts created by surface disturbances, including well pad turn-arounds, soil exposure around the facilities, and a rectangular area of wheat grass, remain until final reclamation is established.

The unit also contains a large and elevated, exposed gas pipe with chain-link, safety fencing surrounding it in Township 24, Range 94, Section 1 (see Photo 1). This installation is substantially noticeable to the casual observer and detracts from the naturalness of the unit.

The range improvements include one water well and .82 miles of fence which support commercial grazing operations. While only minor disturbances when considered alone, when considered, cumulatively, with other impacts these disturbances were found to detract from naturalness.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the two oil and gas wells, exposed gas pipe and safety fencing, primitive routes, wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Lost Soldier Unit to a level that is

incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

**A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

## Summary of Analysis

**Area Name and/or Number: Lost Soldier WY-030-25N94W25-2012**

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

\_\_X\_\_ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by: Christopher D. Jones**

Team members:

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**Reviewed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_